



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

December 2004

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HOLDS STEADY IN THE SOUTHEAST WDA

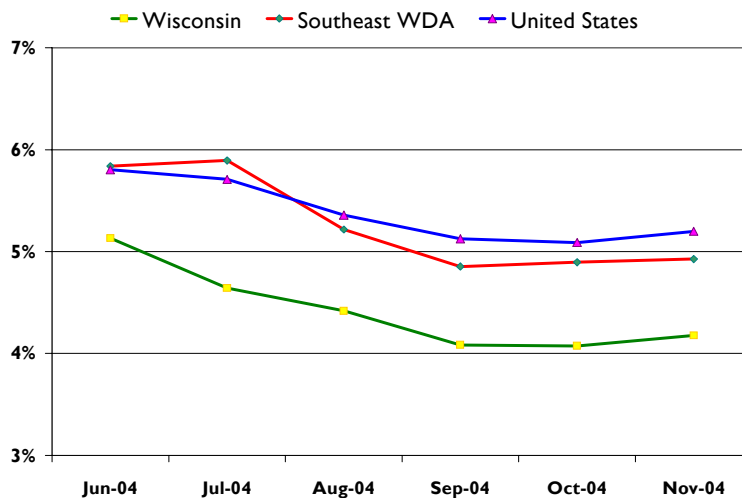
**Walworth County's** unemployment rate was 3.3 percent in November, which was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than October's. Its rate was the lowest of the three regional counties as per usual. The annual perspective of its labor force shows 860 more employed residents and about 80 fewer unemployed lowering the unemployment rate by two-tenths of a point compared to

November 2003. This is the second year in a row that Walworth's unemployment rate was lower than four percent in November.

Walworth's industry employment is seasonally volatile compared to the other regional counties so for it to show an overall monthly job loss is not unprecedented, or even unexpected. Walworth's

total of 42,800 jobs is 700 fewer than in October and is almost entirely due to leisure and hospitality employment (-500 jobs) making its final hurrah in the fall months and then subsiding into the slower winter months. There were employment declines of 100 jobs each in professional and business services and in government-owned employment. The remaining industry sectors showed little or no change over the month.

#### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Walworth shows 500 more jobs compared to last November. Government employment shows the largest annual gain with 200 more jobs. Leisure and hospitality; education and health services; and total trade employment each have 100 more jobs, annually.

**Racine County's** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November was 6.0 percent and remained unchanged from October's rate. Its unemployment rate in November 2003 was 6.7 percent and its current rate is reflective of the fact that the county has almost 1,600 more employed

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: November 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03
Labor force	3,112,520	3,109,876	3,071,535	85,348	85,667	84,194	93,845	93,721	92,882
Employed	2,982,511	2,983,152	2,927,958	81,208	81,537	79,992	88,220	88,077	86,627
Unemployed	130,009	126,724	143,577	4,140	4,130	4,202	5,625	5,644	6,255
% Unemployed	4.2%	4.1%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.7%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03
Labor force	56,719	57,513	55,938	235,912	236,901	233,014	148,246,000	147,978,000	146,969,000
Employed	54,859	55,689	53,997	224,287	225,303	220,616	140,581,000	140,447,000	138,700,000
Unemployed	1,860	1,824	1,941	11,625	11,598	12,398	7,665,000	7,531,000	8,269,000
% Unemployed	3.3%	3.2%	3.5%	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%	5.2%	5.1%	5.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - November 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change since Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003	Change since Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003	Change since Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003	Change since Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003	Change since Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003
	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003
All Industries	2,868.1	13.4	58.2	54.8	0.0	0.3	79.8	0.1	0.9	42.8	-0.7	0.5	177.4	-0.6	1.7
Construction/Natural Resources	137.8	0.2	3.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	8.2	-0.1	0.0
Manufacturing	519.8	-0.3	16.4	9.2	0.0	-0.6	19.6	0.1	0.3	8.9	0.0	0.0	37.7	0.1	-0.3
Total Trade	447.6	5.1	9.1	9.3	0.1	0.5	12.4	0.3	-0.2	5.9	0.1	0.1	27.6	0.5	0.4
Retail Trade	328.9	4.6	4.4	7.2	0.1	0.4	9.4	0.3	-0.3	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	118.7	0.5	4.7	2.1	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.5	0.0	1.3	1.5	0.0	-0.1	2.0	0.0	-0.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	162.2	0.6	3.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.1
Education and Health Services	380.5	1.1	6.2	8.6	0.0	0.1	10.6	0.1	0.2	3.9	0.0	0.1	23.1	0.1	0.4
Leisure and Hospitality	250.3	-9.2	5.3	5.9	-0.2	0.1	6.3	-0.2	0.0	6.6	-0.5	-0.1	18.8	-0.9	0.0
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	446.9	0.4	18.3	6.7	0.0	0.4	11.9	-0.1	0.6	5.2	-0.1	0.1	23.8	-0.2	1.1
Information	47.9	0.3	-1.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	269.4	0.1	20.6	3.5	0.0	0.3	6.6	0.0	0.6	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	129.6	0.0	-1.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.7	-0.1	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	413.5	15.5	-4.8	9.4	0.1	-0.1	10.3	0.0	0.0	7.9	-0.1	0.2	27.6	0.0	0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

residents coupled with over 600 fewer unemployed. This is Racine County's lowest unemployment rate for the month of November since the 4.1 percent clip registered in 2000.

Racine's industry employment total from the nonfarm wage and salary survey was tallied at 79,800 jobs in November. This total is 100 jobs higher on a net basis than it was one month ago. The job gains were spread among retail trade (+300 jobs), manufacturing (+100 jobs), and education and health services (+100 jobs). These gains were offset by monthly employment losses in construction (-100 jobs), leisure and hospitality (-200 jobs), and other services (-100 jobs). These dynamics, from a monthly perspective, were seasonal in nature and not out of the realm of expectation. The jobs gain in manufacturing was higher than usual. In fact, there is usually a manufacturing employment decline in November.

Compared to last November, Racine County had 900 more jobs, overall. Professional and business services and manufacturing posted the largest gains at 600 and 300 jobs, respectively. This is the first

annual increase in Racine's manufacturing employment since December 1999. It is likely that much of the annual increase in business services employment is tied to increased manufacturing production, as much of business services employment is in personnel supply agencies, who send many of their workers to manufacturers. There were annual employment losses in retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities offsetting some of the annual gains, but there was overall jobs growth, nonetheless.

The November unemployment rate for **Kenosha County** was 4.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted), up one-tenth from October. Its rate is one-tenth lower than November 2003 as the county had 1,200 more employed and about 60 fewer unemployed residents, annually. This is the third month in a row that Kenosha's unemployment rate was under five percent.

The latest nonfarm wage and salary estimates show the county's total number of jobs in November at 54,800. This is unchanged over the month on a net basis. Most sectors' employment levels were unchanged monthly. The observed changes

were 200-job decrease in leisure and hospitality, which was offset by gains of 100 jobs each in retail trade and government employment.

Overall, Kenosha has 300 more jobs than it did in November 2003. Retail trade and professional and business services showed the largest employment growth gaining 400 and 300 jobs, respectively. This was offset by a 600-jobs loss in manufacturing employment as well as 100-job decreases, each, in transportation, warehousing and utilities; and in total government employment. Education and health services and leisure and hospitality each gained 100 jobs compared to November 2003.

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